

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 ACDA-19 AEC-11 EB-11 TRSE-00 EA-11 NEA-14 AID-20

FEAE-00 COME-00 INT-08 SCI-06 CU-04 AGR-20 HEW-08

DRC-01 /242 W

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R 311204Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4262

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 4763

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI, UR

SUBJECT: GOWON VISIT TO USSR

REF: LAGOS 4292

SUMMARY: GOWON VISIT TO USSR CONSIDERED HERE TO HAVE
BEEN SUCCESSFUL BUT PRODUCED RELATIVELY ANODYNE COMMUNIQUE
CONTAINING FEW SPECIFICS IN BILATERAL FIELD. END SUMMARY

1. GENERAL GOWON RETURNED TO LAGOS MAY 28 DIRECTLY FROM
TBILISI AT END OF WEEK-LONG VISIT TO SOVIET UNION (REFTEL).
BOTH NIGERIAN PRESS REPORTS AND GOWON'S OWN AIRPORT
COMMENTS EXUDE SATISFACTION WITH TONE AND OVERALL
RESULTS OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET LEADERSHIP, BUT
COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN LAGOS AND MOSCOW
CONTAINS FEW SPECIFICS TO SUPPORT PRESS HEADLINES
OF " NEW DEAL" IN FMG-SOVIET RELATIONS.

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2. BULK OF COMMUNIQUE DEVOTED TO EXPOSITION OF VIEWS OF TWO PARTIES ON WIDE RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. AFTER NIGERIAN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE TO USSR FOR CIVIL WAR SUPPORT, COMMUNIQUE INITIALLY COVERS NUMBER OF ISSUES OF PRINCIPAL INTEREST TO SOVIETS. NIGERIANS RECORDED "IDENTITY OR PROXIMITY OF VIEWS" IN APPLAUDING DETENTE AND SOVIET INITIATIVES TOWARD EUROPEAN SECURITY; JOINING WITH HOSTS TO URGE SPEEDY IMPLEMENTATION OF UNGA DECISIONS ON RENUNCIATION OF USE OF FORCE, PERMANENT PROHIBITION OF THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS AND IN CALLING FOR STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON VIET NAM; SUPPORTING CALL FOR WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE; AND JOINING SOVIETS IN ADVOCACY OF MIDDLE EAST SOLUTION BASED ON COMPLETE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND ENSURING "LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE."

3. BALANCING THESE POINTS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO USSR, NIGERIA GOT REAFFIRMATION OF SOVIET SUPPORT ON NUMBER OF AFRICAN AND ECONOMIC QUESTIONS. COMMUNIQUE THUS INCLUDES ADVOCACY BY PARTIES OF SPEEDING IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT UNGA SPECIAL SESSION, INCLUDING " RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF EACH STATE TO FREELY DISPOSE OF ITS NATURAL WEALTH"; AGREEMENT ON URGENCY OF "FINAL LIQUIDATION OF COLONIALISM, IMPERIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM", RENEWED PLEDGE TO "SUPPORT ALL PEOPLES ENGAGED IN STRUGGLE TO RID THEIR LANDS OF COLONIALISM AND RACISM"; EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NEW PORTUGUESE REGIME WILL MOVE TOWARD RECOGNITION OF "RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE BASED ON MAJORITY RULE" FOR AFRICAN TERRITORIES; SOVIET APPRECIATION FOR OAU EFFORTS IN AFRICAN UNITY AND LIBERATION; AND JOINT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF "IMPORTANT ROLE OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT IN WORLD POLITICS."

4. RELATIVELY BRIEF PORTION OF COMMUNIQUE DEVOTED TO BILATERAL AFFAIRS, INCLUDING NIGERIAN EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION AND GENERAL STATEMENTS OF SATISFACTION

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OVER FRIENDLY RELATIONS. ONLY SPECIFIC FIELDS MENTIONED FOR "FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIAN/SOVIET ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL, COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION" WERE GEOLOGICAL PROSPECTING, OIL INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE, TECHNICAL EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH AND "TRAINING OF NIGERIAN PERSONNEL IN THESE AREAS." IRON AND STEEL COMPLEX CITED IN SEPARATE PARAGRAPH AS "SPECIAL PROJECT FOR SUCH COOPERATION",

WITH ADDED NOTE THAT ACCORDS IN AREAS NAMED AND ON#
TRADE DEVELOPMENT "WILL BE CONCLUDED."

5. COMMUNIQUE ENDED WITH ANNOUNCEMENT THAT GOWON
HAD INVITED TOP SOVIET LEADERS TO VISIT NIGERIA AT
DATE TO BE CHOSEN LATER, AND THAT INVITATION HAD
BEEN " GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED."

6. COMMENT: COMMUNIQUE IS SINGULARLY UNREVEALING
ABOUT THE CONTENT OF TALKS OR ANY FIRM AGREEMENTS
WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN REACHED. ON SPECIFIC QUESTION
OF IRON AND STEEL COMPLEX, GOWON MADE CLEAR IN AIRPORT
REMARKS THAT FMG WILL FINANCE PROJECT ITSELF BUT
OTHERWISE GAVE NO INDICATION OF EXACT ROLE SOVIETS
WILL PLAY. AS NOTED ABOVE, COMMUNIQUE INCLUDES NO
REFERENCE TO COOPERATION IN DEFENSE AREA, THOUGH
THIS WIDELY RUMORED TO HAVE BEEN ON AGENDA FOR TALKS.
WE WILL ATTEMPT DEVELOP FURTHER INFORMATION ON RESULTS
OF CONVERSATIONS AS OPPORTUNITIES OCCUR.
REINHARDT

NOTE BY OCT: #AS RECEIVED.

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